

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 ACDA-05 ISO-00

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 SAI-01

EB-07 FEAE-00 BIB-01 /109 W

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P R 241538Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8165

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

CINCEUR

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - DECEMBER 24

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS HIGHLIGHTS:

-- THE SOVIET PRESS, INCREASINGLY BLUNT IN ITS CRITICISM OF THE U.S., CHASTISES US ON AID TO CHILE, THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION, AND VIETNAM;

--ISVESTIYA SAYS THAT NATO IS GINNING UP THE ARMS RACE, AND SAYS THIS CAUSES "CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES" FOR MBFR (SEPTTEL);  
--THE JORDANIAN DELEGATION HEADED BY RIFA'I IS RECEIVED BY GROMYKO (SEPTTEL);

--PRAVDA CALLS THE 30TH UNGA A DISARMAMENT SESSION AND DOWNPLAYS POINTS OF CONTENTION DURING THAT SESSION;

--LITGAZ SAYS THE FRENCH TV'S SOVIET POLITICAL PRISONER CONCENTRATION CAMP IS IN REALITY AN IDEAL PENAL INSTITUTION FOR COMMON CRIMINALS;

--GRECHKO RECEIVES THE SOMALI CHIEF OF STAFF;

--THE VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS AND PRAVDA PRINTS A BLAND COMMUNIQUE;

-- PRAVDA COMES DOWN SQUARELY ON THE LAOTIAN SIDE IN THE THAI-LAO BORDER CLOSURE;

--AND THE PRESS PORTRAYS CUBAN-SOVIET COOPERATION AS A MODEL FOR SOCIALIST STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. THE SOVIET PRESS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY BLUNT IN ITS CRITICISM OF U.S. DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA NOTES \$90 MILLION ALLOCATION OF U.S. ECONOMIC AID TO CHILE AND SAYS "THE U.S. IS TURNING TO INCREASINGLY ACTIVE SUPPORTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE FASCIST JUNTA." IZVESTIYA SAYS THAT AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN "HAS IN ESSENCE INSPIRED AN ANTI-UN CAMPAIGN IN THE U.S. OVER THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION, AND ARGUES THAT THIS, PLUS THE U.S. "DEMONSTRATIVE REFUSAL" TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION, HAS "INCITED MILITANT ZIONISTS" TO PROVOCATIONS AGAINST UN MISSIONS WHICH VOTED FOR RESOLUTION. SAME ITEM CONTINUES THAT AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN HAS BEEN AWARDED A MEDAL BY THE "HERITAGE OF JUDAISM SOCIETY" FOR HIS "SERVICES TO ZIONISM." IZVESTIYA REPORTS THAT

35 U.S. ORGANIZATIONS HAVE GIVEN AID TO NORTH VIETNAM ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE "BARBARIC AMERICAN BOMBARDMENT" OF HANOI AND HAIPHONG. PRAVDA CARRIES A SHORT, SEEMINGLY POINTLESS ITEM ENTITLED "TENSION IS BEING MAINTAINED" WHICH ANNOUNCES U.S. HAS 488,000 TROOPS STATIONED BEYOND ITS BORDERS. IN ONLY ITEM ON U.S. WITHOUT MAJOR DISTORTION, PRAVDA REPORTS WITHOUT COMMENT THE PRESIDENT'S SIGNING OF THE ENERGY BILL.

3. UN. PRAVDA CARRIES STILL ANOTHER COMMENTARY SUMMING UP ACTIVITY OF THE 30TH UNGA. AUTHOR IS V. NOVELOV, PROBABLY A PSEUDONYM. NOVELOV CALLS THE SESSION A "DISARMAMENT SESSION" AND DISCUSSES AT LENGTH UNGA ACTIONS IN THAT AREA. HE AVOIDS MENTION OF MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, INCLUDING THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION. HE PRAISES USA-USSR JOINT ENMOD DRAFT, SAYS U.S. AND CHINA ARE SLOWING PROGRESS TOWARD A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE, AND CALLS U.S. POSITION ON VIETNAM ENTRY INTO THE UN "OBSTRUCTIONIST." COMMENT. ARTICLE WAS PROBABLY WRITTEN BY AN MFA FUNCTIONARY, AND SEEMS, IN CONTRAST TO MOST COMMENTARIES WHICH HAVE APPEARED ON THIS SUBJECT, TO BE A CONSCIOUS ATTEMPT TO DAMPEN TEMPER ON THE TOUCHY ISSUES. END COMMENT.

4. PCF-CPSU. LITERARY GAZETTE REPORTS IN "ONCE AGAIN ON A CRUDE FALSIFICATION" THAT THE LABOR CAMP DESCRIBED AS A CONCENTRATION CAMP FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN FRENCH AND ITALIAN TV AND BBC, RADIO CANADA, AND VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTS, IS IN FACT A WORK CAMP FOR COMMON CRIMINALS CONVICTED OF ROBBERY AND OTHER SIMILAR CRIMES. THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES THE CAMP IN TERMS WHICH WOULD DO HONOR TO AN IDEAL PENAL INSTITUTION. COMMENT. THE AUTHOR PROTESTS THAT THE WESTERN "TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT" ON THE CAMP VIOLATES CSCE AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDE THAT INFORMATION EXCHANGE SHOULD SERVE THE CAUSE OF DETENTE, BUT HE MAKES NO REFERENCE TO THE PCF-CCPSU IMBROGLIO. END COMMENT.

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5. SOMALIA. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORTS THAT GRECHKO RECEIVED SOMALIACHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF ABDUL MOHAMED FADIL ON DECEMBER 23 FOR "WARM, FRIENDLY CONVERSATION ON QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST."

6. VENEZUELA. FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SALOM LEFT THE USSR ON DECEMBER 23 AFTER HIS WEEK-LONG VISIT HIGHLIGHTED BY A MEETING WITH PODGORNYY, TALKS WITH GROMYKO, AND THE SIGNING OF A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT. PRAVDA CARRIES A SHORT STATEMENT WHICH READS LIKE A COMMUNIQUE, SAYING THAT THE TALKS TOOK PLACE IN "A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING," BUT WHICH CONTAINS NO SUBSTANCE.

7. LAOS. PRAVDA COMMENTATOR A. SERBIN DENOUNCES THE THAI CLOSURE OF THE BORDER WITH LAOS, SEEING IT AS AN "IMPERIALIST

AND REACTIONARY" EFFORT TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE NEW LAOTIAN REGIME. BUT THE LAOTIANS ARE RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THEIR TRUE FRIENDS --"FIRST OF ALL THE SOVIET UNION AND VIETNAM", AND ARE DETERMINED TO DEFEND THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY, SAYS SERBIN. COMMENT: DESPITE THEIR STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF THE NEW LAO REGIME, THE SOVIETS HAVE REPORTED VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE RECENT THAI-LAO PROBLEMS, PROBABLY HOPING TO AVOID OFFENDING BANGKOK. BUT THIS COMMENTARY ECHOES LAOTIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASENTH'S STATEMENT AT HIS DECEMBER 22 PRESS CONFERENCE (VIENTIANE 6623) AND PUTS MOSCOW SQUARELY ON THE LAOTIAN SIDE IN THE DISPUTE. END COMMENT.

8. CUBA. ALL MEDIA REPORT THE DECEMBER 23 DEPARTURE FROM HAVANA OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE CUBAN PARTY CONGRESS HEADED BY SUSLOV. PRAVDA LAUDS THE CONGRESS FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE "REVOLUTIONARY-LIBERATION MOVEMENT" AND THE "FIGHT FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD." THE VICTORIOUS MEETING, SAYS PRAVDA, UNDERLINED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CUBA'S CLOSE TIES WITH AND SUPPORT FROM THE USSR AND OTHER "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES. COMMENT. THE VOLUMINOUS COVERAGE ON THE CONGRESS PORTRAYS CUBA AS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF WHAT "SOCIALIST COOPERATION" SHOULD BE. END COMMENT. STOESSEL

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